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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A chromatographic separation method for separating a component[[s]] in a solution comprising a mixture comprised of said component and at least one other of said component wherein said component is of sugars selected from sugars the group consisting of comprising monosaccharides, disaccharides, trisaccharides and or oligosaccharides[[,]]; corresponding sugar alcohols of said sugars; thereof; polyols; and mixtures thereof betaine from a solution containing the same, wherein the method comprises at least one chromatographic separation step with a weakly basic anion exchange resin for separating said component[[s]] from said at least one other component, wherein said step comprises

feeding said solution into a chromatographic column filled with the weakly basic anion exchange resin having an average particle size of 100-2000 micrometers, eluting said column with an eluant water and recovering a product fraction or product fractions, where the content of said component is higher than in the solution fed into the chromatographic separation step.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the method comprises an additional chromatographic separation step with a column filled with a weakly acid cation exchange resin.

4. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the method comprises an additional chromatographic separation step with a column filled with a strongly acid cation exchange resin.

5. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the weakly basic anion exchange resin is an acrylic-based resin.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the weakly basic anion exchange resin is based on a resin selected from the group consisting of polystyrene resins, epichlorohydrin-based

anion exchange resins, aminated products of phenol or formaldehyde resins, aliphatic amines and ammonia polycondensation resins.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the resin is crosslinked with an aromatic crosslinker.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein the resin is crosslinked with divinylbenzene.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the crosslinking degree is from about 1 to about 10 weight-% divinylbenzene.

10. (Original) The method according to claim 9, wherein the crosslinking degree is from about 3 to about 8 weight-% divinylbenzene.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the resin can be crosslinked with an aliphatic crosslinker selected from the group consisting of isoprene, 1,7-octadiene, trivinylcyclohexane, diethylene glycol divinylether, N,N'-methylenebisacrylamide, N,N'-alkylenebisacrylamides, ethyleneglycol dimethacrylate, di-, tri-, tetra-, pentacrylate and pentamethacrylate.

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the temperature of the column, the feed solution and ~~the eluant~~ water is between 10 and 95°C.

13. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, characterized in that the temperature of the column, the feed solution and ~~the eluant~~ water is between 40 and 95°C.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the pH of the feed solution is on the acidic side of the pH range.

16.-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~eluant~~ water is condensate water.
19. (Cancelled)
20. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the monosaccharides to be separated are pentose, hexose, tetrose monosaccharides, deoxyhexose, deoxypentose or anhydroalditols.
21. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the disaccharides to be separated are tetrose, pentose or hexose disaccharides.
22. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the sugar alcohols to be separated are xylitol, erythritol or inositol.
23. (Cancelled)
24. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein sugars and sugar alcohols are separated from betaine.
25. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the separated sugar is rhamnose.
26. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the separated sugar is maltose.
27. (Original) The method according to claim 22, wherein the separated sugar alcohol is inositol.
28. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the separated polyol is glycerol.
29. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the method is a batch process.
30. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the method is a simulated moving bed system.
31. (Original) The method according to claim 30, characterized in that the simulated moving bed system is continuous.

32. (Original) The method according to claim 30, characterized in that the simulated moving bed system is sequential.
33. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the particle size of the weakly basic anion exchange resin ranges from 100 to 400 micrometers.
34. (New) The method according to claim 3, wherein the chromatographic separation step with a weakly acid cation exchange resin is carried out before the chromatographic separation step with a weakly basic anion exchange resin.
35. (New) The method according to claim 34, wherein the chromatographic separation step with a weakly acid cation exchange resin comprises weakly acid separation.
36. (New) The method according to claim 15, wherein the pH of the feed solution is from 3 to 5.
37. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the weakly basic anion exchange resin has been regenerated into SO_4^{2-} form.
38. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the separated sugar is arabinose.
39. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein a component selected from the group consisting of xylose, arabinose, rhamnose, glucose, maltose, xylitol, erythritol, inositol, mannitol, glycerol and betaine is separated from other sugars and/or sugar alcohols.
40. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the solution comprising the mixture that is fed into the chromatographic column is selected from the group consisting of hydrolysates and extracts from plants.
41. (New) The method according to claim 40, wherein the hydrolysates and extracts from plants are selected from biomass hydrolysates, molasses, vinasse, xylose process streams, sucrose process streams, starch based streams and side streams thereof.